

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-18 and 20-21 are allowed. Claim 19 is currently rejected. Reconsideration and favorable action is requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejection based on Hasegawa

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,099,297, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Controlling the Sliver-Thickness Variation in a Carding Machine" to Junzo Hasegawa et al. ("Hasegawa"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hasegawa discloses a feedback system to keep constant the count along a yarn in a method and apparatus for controlling the sliver thickness variation in a carding machine. The thickness variation of the sliver delivered from the carding machine is measured and an electrical signal corresponding to the thickness variation of the carded sliver is issued.

To establish a prima facie case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. MPEP 2131. Applicants respectfully submit that this criterion has not been met for claims 19 of the present invention.

The invention discloses at least two means, a constant count/twist means and a variable count/twist means. Claim 19 recites, in part, a "method comprising the stages of: selecting means for generating a reference signal for keeping the said count and/or twist characteristics constant along the yarn or means for generating a reference signal for producing count and/or twist characteristics which are variable along the yarn" (emphasis added). In contrast, Hasegawa only teaches a feedback system to keep constant the count along a yarn and is thus unable to alternatively keep the count/twist characteristic either constant along the yarn or variable along the yarn as recited in claim 19. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the step of selecting is not disclosed in Hasegawa.

For the at least this reason discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Hasegawa does not disclose the method of claim 19. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of this case might be advanced by discussing the application with Applicants' representative, in person, or over the telephone, we would welcome the opportunity to do so.

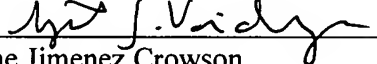
EXCEPT for fees payable under 37 CFR §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application, including fees due under 37 CFR §1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit, any overpayment to deposit account No. 50-1349. This paragraph is intended to be a constructive petition for extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3).

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349.

Respectfully submitted,

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